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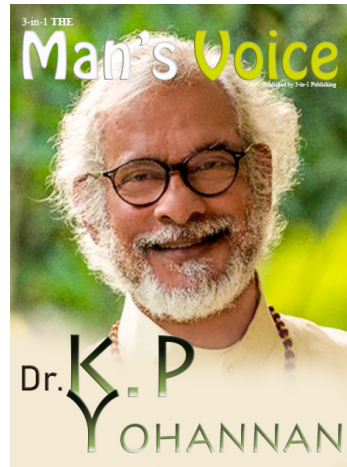
Man's Voice

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A portrait of an elderly man with white hair and a beard, wearing glasses and a white shirt. He is smiling slightly. The background is a soft-focus green and yellow.

Dr. K. P.
YOHANNAN

The Man's Voice



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Meet K.P Yohannan

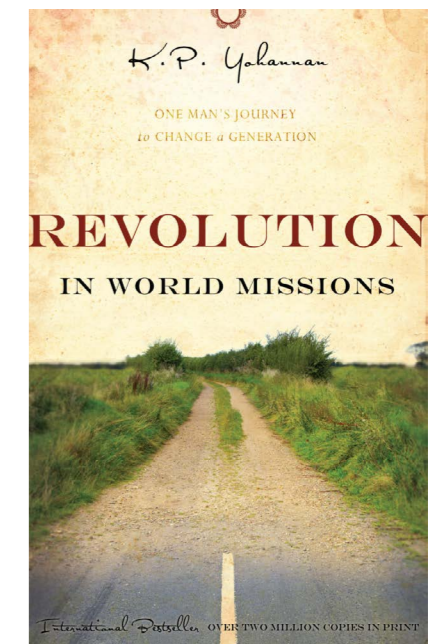
Best Selling Author & Founder Gospel for Asia

Background

Dr. K.P. Yohannan, author of 'No Longer a Slumdog' and the landmark book for many 'Revolution in World Missions'; has been crisscrossing the globe for the last 40 years challenging the body of Christ to discipleship. His call to a radical lifestyle—with all-out commitment to Jesus—has left its impact on nearly every continent. To the Church caught up by the tidal waves of compromise and self-preservation, Yohannan's life message is as fresh as today's podcast, yet as timeless as the scriptural mandate.

Yohannan is the founder and international director of Gospel for Asia (www.gfa.org), a Christian mission organization that has brought the Good News of Christ to millions in South Asia over the last three decades. Dr. Yohannan is a prolific writer with more than 200 books published in Asia. Yohannan's landmark book, Revolution in World Missions, is an international bestseller that has literally changed the course of mission history in our generation.

His weekly Road to Reality radio program airs on more than 800 radio stations in the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. His heart's desire is to see a new generation catch sight of the Lord's burden for the lost in their generation and to give themselves, no holds barred, to His work.



Book 'REVOLUTION IN WORLD MISSIONS'
Author K.P. YOHANNAN
No.1 New York Times Bestseller List

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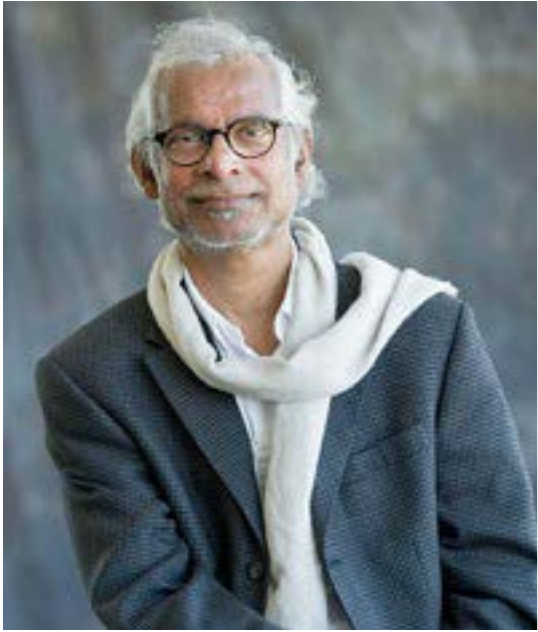
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Interview

K.P Yohannan



1. When you first arrived in the United States from India how did you adapt to living in such a diverse culture?

Before coming to the United States, I served on a mission team in India for 8 years, working with people from 22 different countries. That experience helped me quite a bit with adjusting. But just like anybody getting into a new culture, I realized that this is a different country, a different people. There were some difficulties adjusting and learning new food and ways and talk and everything. Christianity here was the greatest adjustment. You can learn more about that story in my book 'Revolution in World Missions'. But I learned my way slowly.

2. You are a very influential speaker, prolific writer and travel much; therefore how do you manage all this responsibility alongside fulfilling the roles of a husband and father?

Well I see life—everything I do—as a whole. What I write and share, what I do, living with a family and raising children and all these other many things— it's all a part of life. The sun doesn't strive or try to be anything other than what it is. And the life that comes from it causes trees to grow and brings warmth to the earth; it naturally brings life. In the same way, when we live for the Lord, we don't have to fight to figure out all these things; they become part of our life journey. So basically, the more we learn the ways of God and become like Jesus, in all these areas we naturally do what should be done, by God's grace. It's not always perfect, but it's a process of growing and learning and becoming. But more important, I think, is God's grace. When He calls us to certain responsibilities, He gives grace for those responsibilities. That's all I can imagine. I cannot imagine anything that I deliberately try to fight and strive; it's just been the grace of God. That's all.

3. Your ground breaking book 'Revolutions in World Missions' became a book that has enormous impact, globally. Your ministry Gospel for Asia has produced not only an innovative but practical way to minister to the lost in India. Would this work for other culture and countries?

Yes, this can work in any culture. It is a natural law. When God, the Creator of the universe, came to this earth in Christ, He lived as a Jew by His faith and His culture. He trained His disciples and then you find them going forth after Him. Saint Thomas, one of His apostles, traveled all the way to India in AD52 to preach the Gospel. And the available sources, through traditions and otherwise, show us that one of the first things he did was to train and ordain people from the local community to become the leaders of the Church. Although in a few years he was killed for his faith, the people he trained to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and the teachings and the traditions he handed to them continued for another 2,000 years. But if Saint Thomas had refused to trust them or to hand the faith and the tradition to the people of India, he would have died without leaving a church nor any continuation of the work of God. This is a God-ordained and Biblical pattern.

Great missionaries of the past, like those of William Carey or Hudson Taylor with thousands of their followers, would find those who were faithful to the Lord in all the countries they went to and would pass down the faith. And today the growth of the Church that we have all over the world is a result of their labors. The Gospel is not changing people's culture, but rather, changing their lives and their relationship with God. And this works always. Sometimes some missions seem to forget that "for God so loved the world" includes the tribes and primitive people everywhere; they are also created in the image of God and have the intelligence to go forward, just like people in every culture.

5. India has the second highest number of Muslims in the world. Has GFA been able to reach them as you have envisioned and would you need more support in doing so?

Obviously God loves all people. It is estimated that there are over 1 billion Muslims worldwide. They are valuable to our God, and they need to know the Lord's grace and His love. We, as a mission, have a deep passion to care and love and share with them the hope for this life and life to come and we have done that. Now more than ever before, there is a greater awareness for all groups in all kinds of ways, to reach out to the Muslim brothers and sister. And it's been a joy to see what the Lord is doing. Yes, of course, we will always need more broadcasts and ways to do things, but above all else, prayers are needed.

6. There are so many needs in India and the areas you minister. At this time what do you feel God is telling you to concentrate on for this next year?

The population of India is 1.2 billion people, and a little over a third of them are known as Dalits or untouchables. They are considered subhuman by the Hindu caste system. Ninety percent of the children in many of these communities are illiterate. Their women are illiterate. And the problems are so acute. They live in such incredible abject poverty and are practically slaves to the upper caste. The movie Slumdog Millionaire gives somewhat of a picture of the plight of

these people who live in the slums, and it shows how they are abused and murdered. There is a huge outcry among these people now wanting to leave the caste system and embrace a faith that gives them hope. Christ is the only hope for dignity, liberation and new beginnings. Jesus said, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." We are seeing tens of thousands of these Dalits turning to the Lord finding hope and community. So our greatest burden right now is taking the Gospel to the poor, suffering Dalits. We are sharing the love of Christ to them through their children with our Bridge of Hope program. We give these little kids a warm meal day, people who care about them and teach them basic hygiene and manners, opportunity for them to study and to know that Jesus loves them. I visited one of these centers last month, and I was so happy to see these little kids being so well-taken care of.

We also provide gifts to these families to help break the cycle of poverty. Once they have a sewing machine or some chickens they're able to make enough money to take care of their daily needs, but more importantly they get an opportunity to practically know that that Jesus loves them and takes care of them. We call it our Christmas Gift Catalogue. Many are being touched with the love of Christ, but if we don't respond soon, we will lose these precious people. And that is the heaviest burden we carry right now. Prayers are needed and resources are needed to do this.

7. Many young men and woman do not know where to start in the process of missionary work, can you give some helpful hints?

When Jesus called His disciples to spend three and a half years with Him, His invitation was, "Follow Me and I will make you become fishers of men." Often people are deeply impacted with the need of the world, opportunities, and they are challenged. They think they can do the job like Moses did. He saw the need so incredible, and he tried to save his people by himself. But the problem was that he did not understand he could do nothing by himself; God is the One who will do the job. It took 40 years for him to come to the place of understanding the ways of God, of brokenness and nothingness, before God would use him.

So the greatest need and advice I have for young people is this: Get to know the Lord. Read materials from the early 500 centuries of Church, people who spent hours and days before God, seeking God, getting to know the Lord.

Seek the Lord because ministry is not going and handing out literature or preaching in streets and trying to get people to pray the sinner's prayer. It is part of it, but the most important thing is to be a representative of the Lord, and that is life itself. Ministry is not what we do, but what we are.

One of the greatest tragedies today is a world full of Christian workers and missionaries who really do not know the Lord. They are great workers, but so often there is no fruit that will last for eternity. The disciples didn't go to seminary or Bible college (I went to seminary; I'm not against it.) But when they finished their time with Jesus, their time of watching Him and hearing Him and following Him, He simply said, "This is what you need to know: You can do nothing without Me." And then He said, "Wait for the power of the Holy Spirit," which they did. So when they turned the world upside-down, they did not do it out of their theological knowledge or their PhD's, their smartness or their culture; it was done out of absolute dependence on the Lord. But that sort of dependence doesn't happen overnight.

Today there is a lack of brokenness and humility and knowing God. For many Christian workers today, the Bible is just another tool to do some work, like the chisel or hammer is for the carpenter. But it should not be so. The Bible is given to point people to Jesus. As Jesus said, "the Scripture testifies of Me." As we look at the Word of God, we look at Christ, and we are transformed into His image.

So when someone wants to serve God, we must be willing to understand what Jesus said: "I am meek and lowly. Follow Me." Unless there is humility and brokenness, the marks of knowing the Lord, our words will be just words and our lives will not be effective. Therefore, that is my recommendation: Develop godliness and the inner life reality before you run off and do things. It's a growing process, but growing in godliness needs to be a priority throughout the life of anyone who wants to serve God.

I recommend reading books like True Discipleship by William MacDonald, Calvary Road by Roy Hession, books by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. And of course, as I said before, writings from the early would also be a great help.

Thank you so much DR. Yohannan.

God continue to bless you and yours in all you do...Dave



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